

WARDEN'S REPORT, 1896.

RALEIGH, N. C., January 1, 1897.

HON. A. LEAZAR, *General Manager of the North Carolina Penitentiary.*

As Warden of the State's prison I beg to submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 1896 :

While the discipline of the prison has been fully maintained and subordination and good conduct secured, it gives me pleasure to state that punishment has been less frequent than in some years.

It is not to be forgotten that the Penitentiary is a place of punishment for those convicted of infamous crimes, and it is the duty of the Warden to see that the sentences are faithfully executed and good order fully maintained.

The management of the Penitentiary under the present officers has been strict but kind, the officers being instructed to give the prisoner all doubts, and not to report any prisoner unless he is sure that he had willfully broken some rule or is guilty of some misdemeanor, it being explained to the prisoners that they must learn to submit to authority, and that discipline must be maintained at any cost.

There is no question but that a well-regulated commutation law is a great incentive to the convict to behave well. Our law does not go far enough. I would recommend that the commutation for good behavior be considerably increased to, at least, ten days per month after five years.

The cells for sleeping have been kept as clean as possible. Clean sheets and towels are put in every week, and